

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please **add** the following Abstract to this application.

-- In a multi-channel video transmission system in which channel video segments are operated on by corresponding channel video encoders (~~709~~) to encode the video segments into frames organized into groups of defined frame types, an apparatus and method to cause a temporal staggering for the processing of a specific frame type among the various channels. In one preferred embodiment, the apparatus includes a frame counter (~~701~~) to synchronize reset signals associated with the corresponding channel video encoders (~~709~~) and a means for providing a timing offset to channel video encoders corresponding to a selected frame stagger for a particular corresponding channel.--